



New Jersey Turnpike Authority

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING - 581 MAIN STREET
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CHRIS CHRISTIE
GOVERNOR

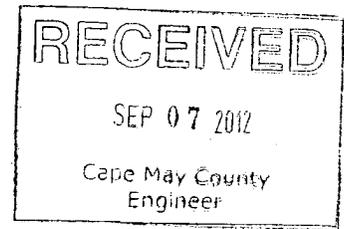
KIM GUADAGNO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

September 5, 2012

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DANIEL F. BECHT, *Commissioner*
VERONIQUE HAKIM, *Executive Director*

Dale Foster, County Engineer
Cape May County
County Administration Building
4 Moore Road – DN 402
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210

Re: New Jersey Turnpike Authority - Notice of Public Hearing
Proposed Replacement of the Garden State
Parkway Southbound Great Egg Harbor and
Drag Channel Bridges
Township of Upper, City of Somers Point and
Township of Egg Harbor
County of Atlantic and County of Cape May
September 20, 2012 from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.



Dear Mr. Foster:

Please be advised that the New Jersey Turnpike Authority will be holding a Public Hearing on Thursday, September 20, 2012 beginning at 3:00 p.m. and concluding at 6:00 p.m. The hearing will be held in the Courtroom at the Township of Upper Municipal Hall, 2100 Tuckahoe Road, Petersburg, New Jersey. The specifics of the hearing and a description of the proposed improvements are outlined in the attached handout. Also attached is a copy of the Legal Notice of the Public Hearing.

The public hearing is being held to satisfy the requirements of *Executive Order No. 172* which requires that the Authority conduct a public hearing to advise the public of certain highway projects prior to the start of construction and to notify County and Municipal Officials of such a hearing. The public hearing is also being held to satisfy the requirements of the *New Jersey No Net Loss Reforestation Act, N.J.S.A. 13:1L-14.2, et seq.* which requires a public hearing to present information concerning the clearing of, and compensation for, greater than one acre of forested area. Notice of the public hearing will be published in several newspapers.

It is the Authority's hope that you will be able to attend this hearing. In the meantime, feel free to contact the Authority's Project Manager Elizabeth Trimpin at 732-750-5300, Extension 8293 or by e-mail at trimpin@turnpike.state.nj.us.

Sincerely,

Maura K. Tully, Esq.

MKT/jlr/Atts.

cc: Elizabeth Trimpin, Structures Engineer
Bill Wilson, Supervising Engineer
Shawn Taylor, Project Supervisor
Susanne O'Donohue, Esq.
Tom Feeney, Media Relations Coordinator
Megan Mulcahy, Chief of Staff

**NEW JERSEY TURNPIKE AUTHORITY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**PROPOSED REPLACEMENT OF THE
GARDEN STATE PARKWAY SOUTHBOUND
GREAT EGG HARBOR AND DRAG CHANNEL BRIDGES**

**TOWNSHIP OF UPPER
CITY OF SOMERS POINT
TOWNSHIP OF EGG HARBOR
ATLANTIC AND CAPE MAY COUNTIES**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the New Jersey Turnpike Authority (the "Authority") will hold a Public Hearing in compliance with Executive Order No. 172 for the purpose of taking public comment on the proposed Authority's Replacement of the Garden State Parkway ("GSP") Southbound Great Egg Harbor and Drag Channel Bridges (Structure Nos. 28.0S and 28.5S), (the "Project"). The purpose of the Project is to eliminate structural deficiencies, address substandard geometry, and maintain coastal evacuation capabilities of the structures carrying the southbound GSP over Great Egg Harbor Bay and Drag Channel.

The proposed work consists of replacing the Southbound GSP structures and approach roadways from milepost 27.0 to 28.8, construction of a new pedestrian walkway and fishing pier, demolition of the existing Garden State Parkway Southbound structures, demolition of Route 9 Beesley's Point Bridge, and rehabilitation of the New Road (Route 9) Bridge (Structure No. 28.9) over the Garden State Parkway. The new structures will include a pedestrian walkway that connects Upper Township with the City of Somers Point. Any impacts associated with the new roadway and multi-use path, temporary trestles and associated construction staging areas will be addressed as required by applicable regulations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 13:1L-14.2. This Project will also impact over one acre of forested area and as such this Public Hearing is being held in compliance with N.J.S.A. 13:1L-14.4. At the completion of the Project a net increase of reforestation will be achieved through proposed on-site mitigation. The proposed improvements are expected to be completed in 2016.

The Public Hearing will be held on Thursday, September 20, 2012 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Court Room at the Township of Upper Municipal Hall, 2100 Tuckahoe Road, Petersburg, NJ. The Authority will have graphic displays of the proposed improvements available at the Public Hearing and will be available to explain the Project and answer questions from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The formal Public Hearing will begin at 4:00 pm with a brief presentation by the Authority followed by the opportunity for members of the public to make oral comments regarding the Project on the record. All comments received, oral or written, will be responded to in a written Public Hearing Report.

Written and oral comments may also be submitted to the Authority prior to the hearing and for sixty (60) calendar days after the close of the hearing or November 19, 2012, which is the official closing date of the comment period. Written and oral comments should be addressed to:

Elizabeth Trimpin, P.E., Project Manager
New Jersey Turnpike Authority
P.O. Box 5042
Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095-5042
(732) 750-5300 Ext. 8293
VERONIQUE HAKIM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Introduction to Project and Need

The project proposes to eliminate structural deficiencies, address substandard geometry, and maintain the existing coastal evacuation capabilities of the structures carrying the GSP Southbound over the Great Egg Harbor Bay and Drag Channel. The overall condition of the existing Southbound Garden State Parkway structures over the Great Egg Harbor Bay and Drag Channel are poor and they exhibit structural deterioration as a result of being near the end of their useful service life. These structures have required a continual investment in annual maintenance repairs. The bridges are functionally obsolete and do not meet current design standards. Continuing normal maintenance repairs will maintain the structures and sustain them for the remaining portion of their useful service life. However, replacement of the existing structures is ultimately needed to eliminate structural deficiencies and to provide a highway that is compliant with current design and operational standards. Any impacts associated with the new roadway and multi-use path, temporary trestles and associated construction staging areas will be addressed as required by applicable regulations pursuant

to N.J.S.A. 13:12-14.2. This project will also impact over one acre of forested area and as such this Public Hearing is being held in compliance with N.J.S.A. 13:1L-14.4. At the completion of the project a net increase of reforestation will be achieved through proposed on-site mitigation.

The proposed project includes the replacement of the Garden State Parkway Southbound Great Egg Harbor Bay and Drag Channel Bridges (Structure Nos. 28.0S and 28.5S) and approaches from milepost 27.0 to 28.8, which includes the construction of an integral multi-use path that connects the City of Somers Point with the Township of Upper. Work also includes demolition of the existing Garden State Parkway Southbound structures, demolition of Route 9 Beesley's Point Bridges, and rehabilitation of the New Road (Route 9) Bridge (Structure No. 28.9) over the Garden State Parkway.

Key Benefits

- Replaces the southbound GSP bridges over Great Egg Harbor Bay and Drag Channel.
- Creates a multi-use path that connects the City of Somers Point and the Township of Upper
- Minimizes impacts to environment and wildlife.
- Provides fishing areas on the new Drag Channel Bridge
- Creates a parking area for use of the multi-use path and fishing locations.



Schedule and Costs

The contract is scheduled to be awarded at the Authority's January 2013 Commission Meeting, with construction starting in March 2013. The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2016.

The estimated construction cost for the project is between \$ 200 million and \$210 million.

